



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Poultry growers on Sand Mountain in northeast Alabama use EQIP to solve critical problems. Growers in a 6 county area in northeast Alabama know as Sand Mountain annually grow over 1 billion chickens. One billion chickens pose a serious water quality problem according to health officials and local county governing bodies. Conservation Districts in this area of the state were quick to adopt the Priority Area concept offered by EQIP to concentrate funds to assisting growers to safely store and dispose of animal waste before it could adversely affect the drinking water in the populous area.

Growers utilized every dollar that was allocated to priority areas in the region to apply practices such as composters and storage sheds to manage waste products safely. Local officials believe that EQIP has kept the number one cash enterprise in the area growing. Producers like the flexibility of the contracts to be able to receive incentives and cost-sharing to offset some of the more expensive practices that likely would be delayed without EQIP.

Local officials when asked how to improve EQIP responded, increase funding.

Alabama Summary

Overview

In Alabama, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2000. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$6 million dollars were submitted by over 3,400 landowners. The Alabama FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$2,945,000. This is a shortfall of about \$3 million to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 1,100 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated nearly 100 percent of allocated financial assistance funds. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees in Alabama devoted over 28,000 hours to EQIP administration in FY 2001. This is equivalent to \$660,000 in wages associated with the EQIP.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Alabama through 50 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA). About \$2,942,269 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 44,000 acres throughout the State. About 1,480 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in Alabama as reported in PRMS. Since the inception of EQIP in Alabama, over 15,000 distinct conservation practices have been planned in EQIP contracts.

Outlook

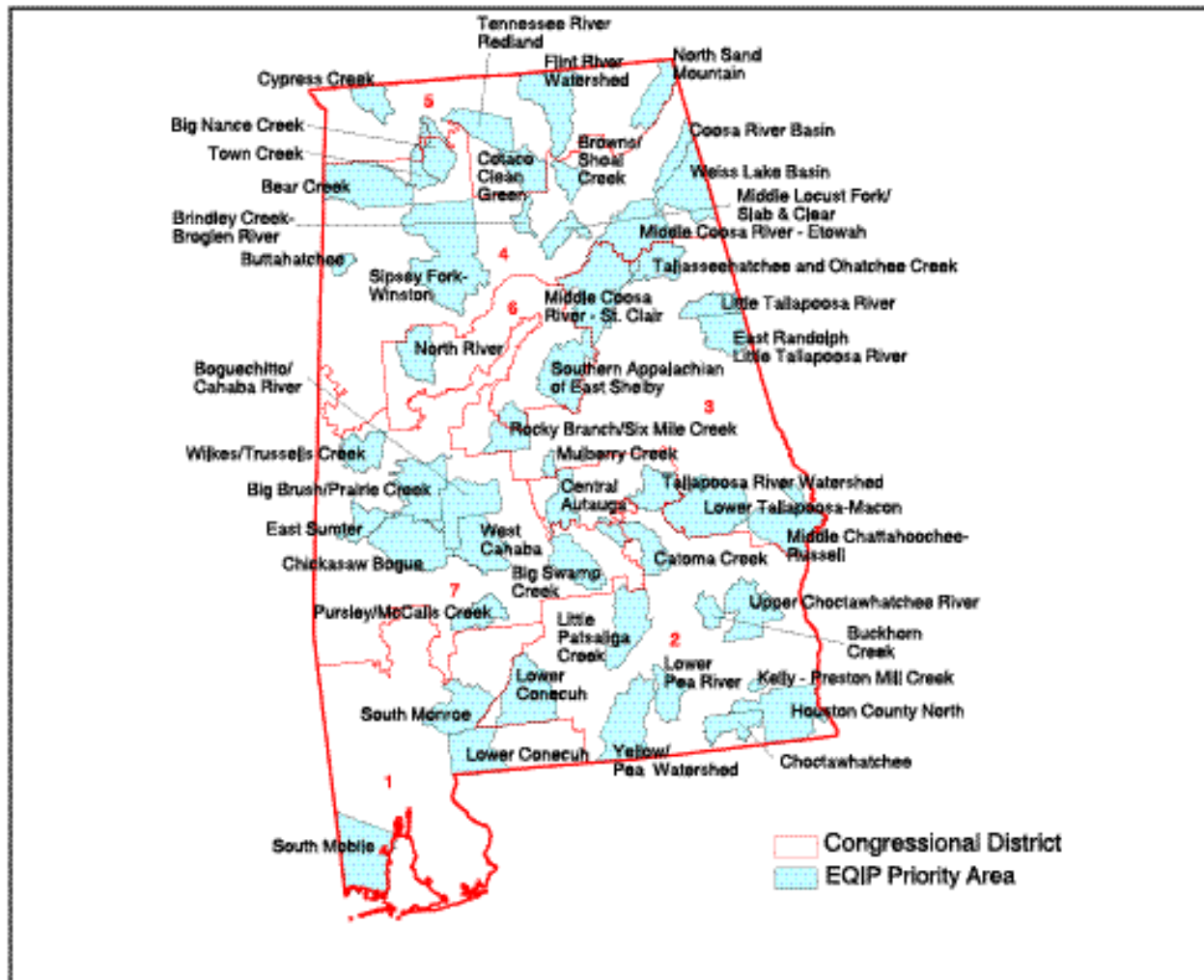
If participation were a measure of success of this program, Alabama would report tremendous success with EQIP. The total unmet need requests from clients are \$4,500,000 in FY 2000, and the total unmet need of unfunded GPAs (approved GPA applications that have not been funded) is about \$7,000,000. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

State Contacts

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Alabama EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



2001 Alabama EQIP Dollars

Congressional District	Dollars Obligated
District 1	\$176,406
District 2	\$658,029
District 3	\$372,473
District 4	\$751,845
District 5	\$363,337
District 6	\$85,000
District 7	\$534,879

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